

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENOA 00354 211424Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01 ACDA-12 COME-00 /065 W
-----011598 211428Z /50

O P 211220Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL GENOA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2281
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MILAN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL TURIN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL TRIESTE PRIORITY
AMCONSUL FLORENCE PRIORITY
AMCONSUL NAPLES PRIORITY
AMCONSUL PALERMO PRIORITY

UNCLAS GENOA 0354

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJ: GENOA POLICE OFFICIAL KILLED BY TERRORISTS

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 0830 THIS MORNING, ANTONIO ESPOSITO, CHIEF
OF THE POLICE PRECINCT (COMMISSARIATO) OF NERVI, GENOA S
SOUTHERNMOST DISTRICT, WAS SHOT TO DEATH BY TWO UNIDENTIFIED

MEN WHILE RIDING ON A BUS ON HIS WAY TO WORK. ATTACK TOOK
PLACE IN THE ALBARO RESIDENTIAL AREA OF GENOA. ACCORDING TO
EYE WITNESSES, THE ASSAILANTS MOVED BACK TO THE REAR OF THE BUS,
PULLED OUT THEIR PISTOLS AND COLD-BLOODEDLY FIRED EIGHT SHOTS
INTO ESPOSITO KILLING HIM INSTANTLY. ASSAILANTS JUMPED FROM
THE REAR DOOR OF THE BUS AND WERE IMMEDIATELY PICKED UP BY A
DARK 128 FIAT SEDAN. THE GET AWAY CAR, A STOLEN VEHICLE WITH
FAKE LICENSE PLATES, WAS LATER FOUND ABANDONED IN A NEARBY
STREET.

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2. AT THIS WRITING NO TERRORIST GROUP AS YET CLAIMED CREDIT FOR
THE DEED. HOWEVER. MODUS OPERANDI, AND METICULOUS CARE OF
PLAN AND EXECUTION OF ATTACK CLEARLY POINT TO THE RED BRIGADES.
TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS IS THE FIRST TERRORIST ATTACK SUCCESSFULLY
CARRIED OUT AGAINST A VICTIM RIDING IN A PUBLIC CONVEYANCE.

COMMENT: ESPOSITO WAS KNOWN TO CONSULATE'S OFFICERS AS AN

INTELLIGENT AND COOPERATIVE OFFICIAL. UNTIL HIS RECENT APPOINTMENT TO NERVI, HE HAD BEEN CHIEF OF GENOA'S ANTI-TERRORIST SQUAD. IT WAS PROBABLY BECAUSE OF HIS ROLE IN THE LATTER CAPACITY THAT HE WAS CHOSEN AS A TARGET. THE EASE WITH WHICH THE ASSAILANTS CARRIED OUT THEIR ATTACK AND SUCCESSFULLY GOT AWAY WOULD APPEAR TO SETTLE THE OLD ARGUMENT OVER THE RELATIVE PROTECTION OR SAFETY AFFORDED A POTENTIAL TERRORIST VICTIM BY HIS USE OF PUBLIC, AS AGAINST PRIVATE, TRANSPORTATION.

I SENT MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES TO GENOA POLICE CHIEF DE LONGIS ASKING HIM TO CONVEY MY SYMPATHY TO HE ESPOSITO FAMILY.

WILL CABLE MORE DETAILS AS AVAILABLE.DI SCIULLO

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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